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**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1655**  
**“An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property”**

**J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®**  
**April 24, 2025**

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® protect private property rights, build Maine communities, and grow our state's economy. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® opposes LD 1655 as an unnecessary proposal. Each community in Maine is diverse and its residents also share that same diversity in how they choose to live. Properties vary based on the location, size and needs of those that own it. The concept of private property rights is that ownership is made up of a bundle of rights, which includes use. Residents who are financing their local government through their property taxes should be able to determine the true needs of their community. They should also be able to determine what, if any, ordinance should exist, and what parameters are to be set around said ordinance. The regulation of chickens, and other farm animals, should not be set at the state level with a one-sized fits all approach that may in fact prove impractical or irrelevant in some communities across our state.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1655. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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